

**Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures**  
**Rapid Intervention Crews**  
**205.10**  
**Rev 3-24-97**

The Tempe Fire Department often responds to incidents that present a high safety risk to firefighters. This procedure identifies the requirements for and the operation of Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC).

The objective of a RIC is to have a fully equipped rescue team on-site, in a ready state, to immediately react and respond to rescue injured or trapped firefighters or civilians.

This procedure shall be implemented at all working structural fires and other incidents where fire department members are subject to hazards that would be immediately dangerous to life and/or health in the event of an equipment failure, sudden change of conditions, or mishap.

Examples of special hazards include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive Fire Operations
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue

Upon declaration of working fire an additional engine company will be dispatched and given the designation RIC. The assigned RIC unit will acknowledge response via radio, RIC (unit ID) responding. The RIC unit should announce via radio RIC (unit ID) staged. The RIC unit should stage in a location to maximize their options and await instruction from Command.

A minimum of one company will be required.

Command may assign more than one company if necessary. Operations of a large or more complex nature may call for multiple RIC units to standby at different entry points. All crew members will assume a ready state, including full protective clothing, SCBA, and RIC rescue kit. The RIC company officer will closely monitor the assigned tactical radio channel at all times. The team must be able to react immediately to a sudden emergency event at the incident site.

The RIC unit should be reserved for immediate life threatening situations, such as a firefighter lost, trapped or injured, or other critical situations. The RIC team could also be assigned to a civilian rescue situation, if needed. During the course of an incident, Command may elect to assign the RIC to a tactical function, but shall immediately replace the team with another company, as long as the hazardous situation continues. Note: If a hazardous situation continues and incident command elects to assign the RIC to a tactical function, command must follow up with the Emergency Services Chief as to:

- 1) events and/or factors that caused the RIC to be re-assigned.
- 2) was the RIC replaced immediately, and if not, why.

Command will assign RESCUE SECTOR to the RIC.

If not needed as a RIC, Command may assign this company as relief or loss control, but not until it is certain that all crews are out of danger. This unit will also take the place of the extra engine dispatched on 2 & 1 assignments when temperatures are above 105 degrees.

This procedure is intended to increase the overall level of safety for fire department members operating at emergency incidents. It should integrate with procedures that are already in effect, such as the requirement for a back-up rescue team for hazardous materials entry.

The RIC rescue kit is a yellow bag carried on all companies to assist in the transporting of identified tools/equipment by RIC companies operating in hazardous situations. A laminated sheet is attached to the bag to remind companies to assemble:

- SCBA
- Throw Bag
- Tools (i.e., halligan, pickhead axe)
- Flashlights